

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re

U.S. Application of: Akiyoshi JOHDAI and Koji HIGASHIKAWA
For: BINDING MEMBER REMOVING APPARATUS,
AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT FEEDER, SHEET
PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE
FORMING APPARATUS

Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned
U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned
Filed: Concurrently
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned
Examiner: To Be Assigned

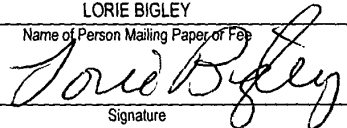
Prior Application:

Serial No.: 09/377,011
Confirmation No.: 7240
Filed: August 18, 1999
Group Art Unit: 3651
Examiner: Patrick H. Mackey

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EL 794576615 US DATE OF DEPOSIT: AUGUST 1, 2003 I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
LORIE BIGLEY Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee
 Signature
August 1, 2003 Date of Signature

**TRANSMITTAL OF DECLARATION AND POWER OF
ATTORNEY AND STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.63 (d)(2)**

Transmitted herewith for use in this divisional application is a copy of the
Declaration and Power of Attorney (5 pages) from the parent U.S. Patent Application
Serial No. 09/377,011, filed August 18, 1999.

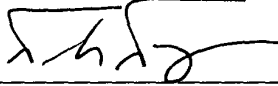
In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.63 (d)(2), Applicants respectfully request that the following persons' names, who invented portions of the parent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/377,011, filed August 18, 1999, be removed from the divisional application filed concurrently herewith due to the fact that only Messrs. Akiyoshi JOHDAI and Koji HIGASHIKAWA are inventors of the invention claimed in the divisional application.

Accordingly, please delete the following persons' names appearing on the Declaration and Power of Attorney filed in the parent application, Serial No. 09/377,011, filed August 18, 1999, since they did not invent the invention claimed in the divisional application as follows:

- (1) Noritoshi MARUCHI;
- (2) Keiko TOYODA;
- (3) Tohru MURAKAMI; and
- (4) Kunihiko KANOU.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


Thomas N. Tarnay
Reg. No. 41,341
Attorney for Applicants

TNT:pm
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August 1, 2003

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe that I and the other joint inventors named below are the original, first and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a United States patent is sought on the invention or discovery entitled

BINDING MEMBER REMOVING APPARATUS, AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT FEEDER, SHEET PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

the specification of which was filed on August 18, 1999
as Application Ser. No. 09/377,011.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims; and

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. § 119/365 of any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate as listed below or of any PCT international application, designating at least one country other than the United States of America, as listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application, designating at least one country other than the United States of America, directed to said invention or discovery and having a filing date

before that of the applications on which priority is claimed:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>DATE FILED</u>	<u>PRIORITY CLAIMED</u> (Yes) (No)
10-239053	JAPAN	August 25, 1998	X
10-273839	JAPAN	September 28, 1998	X
10-273840	JAPAN	September 28, 1998	X
10-275594	JAPAN	September 29, 1998	X

I hereby appoint:

John J. Arnott, Reg. No. 39,095
Charles S. Cotropia, Reg. No. 27,189
Kathi A. Cover, Reg. No. 37,803
Daren C. Davis, Reg. No. 38,425
William R. Gustavson, Reg. No. 29,160
David L. Hitchcock, Reg. No. 30,067
Kelly J. Kubasta, Reg. No. 44,196
William D. McSpadden, Reg. No. 44,234
Steven P. Rhines, Reg. No. 38,595
Thomas N. Tarnay, Reg. No. 41,341
James W. Williams, Reg. No. 20,047

all of the firm of SIDLEY & AUSTIN, my representatives with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and to file and prosecute any international patent applications filed thereon before any international authorities under the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

Send correspondence to:	Direct telephone calls to:
SIDLEY & AUSTIN	<u>James W. Williams</u>
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Suite 3400	Main: <u>(214) 981-3300</u>
Dallas, Texas 75201-6507	Attorney Docket No.: <u>15162/01040</u>

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Full name of first joint inventor:

<u>Noritoshi</u>		<u>MARUCHI</u>
First	Middle	Last

Inventor's signature: Noritoshi Maruchi
Date: Oct. 13, 1999
Residence: Toyokawa-Shi, Aichi-Ken, Japan
Citizenship: Japan
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Full name of second joint inventor:

<u>Keiko</u>		<u>TOYODA</u>
First	Middle	Last

Inventor's signature: Keiko Toyoda
Date: Oct. 15, 1999
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Citizenship: Japan
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Full name of third joint inventor:

<u>Tohru</u>	<u>MURAKAMI</u>
First	Last

Inventor's signature: Tohru Murakami

Date: Oct. 14, 1999

Residence: Okazaki-Shi, Aichi-Ken, Japan

Citizenship: Japan

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Osaka, 541-8556 Japan

Full name of fourth joint inventor:

<u>Akiyoshi</u>	<u>JOHDAI</u>
First	Last

Inventor's signature: Akiyoshi Johdai

Date: Oct. 12, 1999

Residence: Toyokawa-Shi, Aichi-Ken, Japan

Citizenship: Japan

Post Office Address: c/o MINOLTA CO., LTD., Osaka Kokusai
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Full name of fifth joint inventor:

<u>Koji</u>	<u>HIGASHIKAWA</u>
First	Last

Inventor's signature: Koji Higashikawa

Date: Oct. 22, 1999

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Citizenship: Japan

Post Office Address: 2-13-1-803, Tohkaichi-Minami,
Miyoshi-Shi, Hiroshima-Ken, 728-0014 Japan

Full name of sixth joint inventor:

<u>Kunihiko</u>		<u>KANOU</u>
First	Middle	Last

Inventor's signature: Kunihiko Kanou

Date: Oct. 12, 1999

Residence: Toyokawa-Shi, Aichi-Ken, Japan

Citizenship: Japan

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